The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of actions affecting labor occurring in the federal, state, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other matters of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1914, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 12, 1918.

Are You REGISTERED?

WHOLE NO. 1935 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1948 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 38, NO. 19

Union Shop Issue Put to Building Trades; Useless Elections to Cost $1½ Millions

Washington.—The National Labor Relations Board began the vast and useless job of holding union shop authorization elections among workers in the construction industry.

Robert N. Denham, general counsel for the NLRB, acting under the requirement of the Taft-Hartley law which makes such elections mandatory before a union shop contract can be entered legally, announced plans for 2 "pilot elections" among 5 classifications of employes working in the heavy construction industry in 32 counties in western Pennsylvania.

These elections are the first of several "test" elections to be conducted in various sections of the country in order to develop a pattern which can be followed throughout the nation. The immensity of the task may be judged on the basis of the NLRB's estimates that about 2,000,000 workers are engaged in the building and construction industry.

Since the success of the election is not in doubt by virtue of the fact that the construction industry has been unionized virtually on a union shop basis, the cost of the elections will represent a complete waste to the federal funds. Reliable sources place the cost to the taxpayers at from $1,000,000 to $1,500,000, a tidy sum in those days of mounting governmental expenditures for more worthwhile purposes.

The Pennsylvania election proceeding was initiated by petition filed by the A. F. of L. construction unions and will be conducted on the complete agreement of these unions with the Contractors Association of Western Pennsylvania. The unions are (1) Operating Engineers, (2) Teamsters, (3) Carpenters, (4) Pile Drivers, and (5) Laborers.

The elections will be conducted on the rules of the unions contracting bodies. Approximately 98 jobs, involving as many contractors, will be voted in the course of the day by 60 agents of the NLRB.

Mr. Denham stated: "We hope to conduct two or more pilot elections in the very near future, as something of the nature of laboratory tests for the perfection of techniques. When they have been proved, we can proceed to apply them to the national scene on the basis of these 'laboratory tests' we can then go forward with the holding of other pilot or conducting union-shop polls in various areas of the United States. In effect, the results of such elections in recognizable areas will become practically the same as holding a national election on a piecemeal basis."

AFL Convention Calendar

Date 1948	Organization	Place
May 17	Int. Union Hatters, Cap & Millinery Workers	New York, N. Y.
May 17	Texas State Federation of Labor	Hot Springs
May 17	Michigan State Federation of Labor	Battle Creek, Mich.
May 17	Maine State Federation of Labor	Portland
May 17	Int. Plate Printers, Die Stampers & Engrvs.	Chicago
May 17	Int. Wood Workers of America	Brunswick
May 24	Mol.-D. C. State Federation of Labor	Washington, D. C.
June 7	South Dakota State Federation of Labor	Aberdeen
June 7	Glass Bottle Blowers Assn. of U. S. and Can.	Chicago
June 7	Maine State Federation of Labor	Portland
June 14	Int. Glove Workers Union of America	Burlington, Iowa
June 21	Oregon State Federation of Labor	Salem
June 21	Texas State Federation of Labor	Fort Worth
June 21	Tech. Eng. Architects & Draftsmen's Int. Fed.	Milwaukee
June 28	National Brotherhood Operative Potters	Atlantic City
*June	Int. Alliance Theatrical Stage Emp. & Moving Picture Operators	Undecided
July 5	American Federation of Teachers	Glenwood Springs, Colo.
July 8	Int. Brotherhood Firemen and Oilers	Chicago
July 12	Washington State Federation of Labor	Bellingham
July 19	International Stereotypers & Electrotypers	Philadelphia
July 26	Int. Molders' & Foundry Workers	Baltimore
Aug. 2	Brotherhood of RR. Signalmen of America	Milwaukee
Aug. 9	Idaho State Federation of Labor	Coeur d'Alene
Aug. 9	North Carolina State Federation of Labor	Asheville
Aug. 16	International Typographical Union	Milwaukee
Aug. 16	Utah State Federation of Labor	Ogden
Aug. 16	Wisconsin State Federation of Labor	Sheboygan
Aug. 16	Int. Photo-Engravers Union of America	Baltimore
*Aug.	West Virginia State Federation of Labor	Undecided
*Aug.	National Federation of Post Office Clerks	Miami
Aug. 27	Vermont State Federation of Labor	Bennington
Aug. 30	Am. Fed. of Government Employees	Philadelphia
*Aug.	Radio Directors Guild	Chicago
*Aug.	Int. Printing Pressmen's & Assts. Union	Pressmen's Home

NLRB Sets More New Records In March; Handled More Cases, Fell Farther Behind

Washington.—For the fifth consecutive month the National Labor Relations Board transmitted a record amount of business, but fell still further behind in its work.

A statistical report covering the board's activities for the month of March showed that the number of cases filed under the Taft-Hartley law reached the massive total of 4,230, or nearly 14 times the total cases awaiting decision when the law became effective last August.

The above 4,230 cases heaped upon the NLRB in March brought the current backlog of actions pending decision at some procedural level to 12,150. In other words, after 7 months of the Taft-Hartley law, the board has about 3 times as much net work ahead of it as it had when the law became effective.

The number of cases filed with the board in March was 50 percent greater than the total filed in February. Of the 4,230 cases brought, 2,407, or 57 percent, involved petitions for various types of elections; 317 alleged unfair labor practices by employers and 84 alleged unfair labor practices by unions. Petitions for union shop authorization elections accounted for 84 percent of all the election petitions filed.

The results of the union shop elections conducted by the NLRB demonstrated once again the utter irrelevancy of the requirement for such polls. Unions won the majority of the 1,287 elections held with 95 percent of the votes cast favoring retention of the union security provision. The AFL was victorious in 1,057 of the elections conducted.

The NLRB held 330 collective bargaining elections during March involving 50,000 employees. Of the 480 valid votes cast in these polls, 72 percent favored certification as the collective bargaining agent. This percentage, too, is the same as that which was about the same as that recorded in the previous month.

AFL affiliates were involved in 227 of the elections and won 157 of these occasions. In 19 contests the AFL and CIO were directly opposed. The AFL won out in 11 of these, while the CIO trailed with only 5 victories. The remaining 3 elections involved no unions or were indeterminate in their results.

WEATHER, SHORTAGES, SLOW HIRING RATE IN FACTORIES

Washington.—Severe winter weather, fuel and material shortages in some parts of the country, and production cutbacks in a few industries caused the hiring rate in manufacturing industries to drop sharply in February, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The rate fell from 46 per 1,000 employes on the pay roll in January to 39 in February, the lowest for any February since 1944.

The January quit rate, after allowing for a shorter workweek, showed no change from January. Layoffs, at 13 per 1,000, substantially exceeded those during the same month of last year, but changed little from the previous month. The total separation rate of 42 per 1,000 was therefore virtually unchanged from January.

HUMPHREY TO OPPOSE BALL IN SENATE RACE

Minneapolis.—Senator Joseph Ball, one of the stalwarts of the anti-labor 80th Congress, will face stiff opposition here in his race for re-election.

Senator Hubert Humphrey announced that he will be a candidate for the nomination on the Democratic-Farmer Labor ticket. He has demonstrated tremendous hold-strength in this state and has the support of legitimate labor organizations and is an opponent of the Taft-Hartley slave labor law.

In a radio address, Humphrey announced his candidacy. Highlights of his speech:

"Ball speaks and votes that philosophy of government which repudiates a working partnership between government and the people.

"The man who once campaigned as a liberal has now become the national symbol of reaction on domestic policy.

MORE POSITIONS FILLED BY HANDICAPPED WORKERS

Washington. — Handicapped job placements by the public employment service were substantially higher in March than in January or February of this year, Robert C. Goodwin, director of the United States Employment Service, announced here.

Reports forwarded by the state employment services to Goodwin said, showed handicapped placements in March were 18,456, an increase of 31.8 percent over February. Of the total, 10,235 were disabled veterans.

Wages In Building Trades Lag Behind Cost of Living

Washington.—The over-all increase in wage rates won since 1939 by trades unions in the construction industry is substantially less than the increases in the cost of living or in the wholesale prices of building materials, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

In its regular quarterly survey of wages paid to members of 7 building crafts in 19 cities, the BLS figures revealed that wages had increased 7 percent during the first quarter of 1948. Since June, 1949, unions have won an increase of 54 percent, largely from postwar negotiations.

Between June and March, 1948, the BLS consumers' price index jumped 59 percent and the average primary market price of building materials rose by approximately 116 percent, the report disclosed.

In the first quarter of 1948, nearly one-fifth of the 500,000 union tradesmen covered by the survey received increases, which in most cases were between 10 and 25 cents an hour. The highest hourly wage rate in effect on April 1, 1948, was $1.20.

Bricklayers and plasterers received the highest wage scales, according to the BLS figures. Wage rates for these crafts ranged from a low of $1.75 an hour to a high of $2.50.

BLS estimated increases in union rates from April, 1947, and rate levels for April, 1948, by 7% cities:

	Amount of increase April, 1947 to April, 1948		Rate levels April, 1948		
	(Percent)	(per hr.)	Low	Average	High
Bricklayers	10.5	23	$1.75	$2.43	$3.13
Carpenters	11.4	21	1.50	2.06	2.50
Electricians	9.3	19	1.50	2.24	2.50
Painters	8.6	16	1.25	2.02	2.50
Plasterers	10.9	23	1.75	2.36	3.13
Plumbers	7.7	16	1.50	2.24	2.81
Building laborers	13.2	15	.75	1.28	1.75

National Family Life Conference Meets; Harrison Says Housing Greatest Crisis

Washington.—The National Conference on Family Life, attended by over 900 delegates from the 48 states and Hawaii, concluded its sessions here after a series of discussions on the problems confronting family life today.

The conference, a privately financed undertaking, was sponsored by 125 labor, religious and civic groups representing a total membership of over 40 million people.

The American Federation of Labor actively participated in the conference. AFL President William Green observed on the board of trustees for the conference and, through AFL economist, was named vice-chairman of the organization. George M. Harrison, AFL executive council member and president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, delivered one of the key addresses before a plenary session of the group.

Highlighting the 5-day sessions was an address by President Truman in which he emphasized the importance of the family unit as the foundation for all government, and urged the enactment of the Taft-Ellender-Wagner long-range housing bill as a means of alleviating the housing crisis which has contributed so much to family disunity.

Mr. Harrison, in his address, singled out the problems of housing, public health, and education as those requiring immediate attention.

"In these fields," he said, "the federal government can function to safeguard the family unit."

Citing adequate housing as the basic remedy for family crisis which confronts us, Mr. Harrison called upon the public for a greater awareness of the problems and declared that a "small group of small men in Congress" is blocking the Ellender-Taft-Wagner long-range housing program, acting "in the interests of the few and not the better houses."

Mr. Harrison lauded the cooperation of both labor and management in organizing and holding the National Family Conference on Family Life. Calling for continued cooperation by both groups in efforts to promote the public welfare, he said:

"Labor and management must make it a practice to meet and agree on the conference table—not only with the problems of employment and of production but also with the welfare of the community and of the family. In the community, they could jointly give rise to a tremendous drive in which the combined resources of organized labor and of management could be put to the public interest. Out of such a mutual relationship, there could be a better mutual understanding of management and of labor and of labor problems by management."

The AFL delegation attending the conference was composed of Arnold S. Zander, president of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employes; H. L. Mitchell, president of the National Farm Labor Union; Miss Selma Borchardt, Washington representative of the AFL Teachers Federation of Teachers; Mark Ethridge, director of labor for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; Nelson Cruikshank, the AFL's director of social insurance activities; and Sylvia Altman of the American Federation of Musicians.

We Want Your Vote Too!

How do you regard the Taft-Hartley Act?
Are you for it or against it?
Here's your chance to vote!

Recently, Senator Robert A. Taft and other supporters of this legislation have been somewhere trying to make the public believe that the Taft-Hartley Act is only liked by labor leaders and that the rank and file of labor union members are really in favor of it.

We think the public ought to know the truth.

That is why we are conducting this nation-wide poll.

This is an entirely secret ballot. We want you to express your honest opinion. It's perfectly safe. All you have to do is to place a check in the box beside either of the two questions below and mail the clipping to Poll Department, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

I am for the Taft-Hartley Act ☐

I am against the Taft-Hartley Act ☐

Please mark your ballot above and mail to Poll Department, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Note to Editors:—Labor's own poll has been designed to find out whether there is any basis for the claim that union members are in favor of the Taft-Hartley law. Editors are requested to give wide publicity to the poll and urge their readers to participate in the balloting.

VIRGINIA LABOR TO FORM POLITICAL EDUCATION UNIT

Roanoke.—The Virginia State Federation of Labor closed its convention here with the reelection of officers and the adoption of a resolution to form a labor league for political education in Virginia.

E. E. Smith of Buckroe Beach heads the federation for another year. He was instructed to call a meeting within two weeks of the Labor League's Policy-Making Committee to work out details of the political activity program.

AFL Will Urge Major Parties To Adopt T-H Repeal Planks

AFL's Union-Industries Show Opens; Labor-Management Teamwork Hailed

Milwaukee.—Thousands of people jammed the Civic Auditorium here for the gala opening of the 1948 Union-Industries Show sponsored by the AFL's Union Label Trades Department in observance of the 68th observance of Union Label Week throughout the nation.

The gala event was officially opened by AFL President William Green and members of the AFL Executive Council in colorful ceremonies broadcast over the nation-wide network of the Broadcasting Company.

Visitors from all over the United States which have taxed the hospitality and facilities of this city thrilled about in the auditorium talking to the countless exhibits of the nation's industrial firms which, in cooperation with the AFL are displaying a host of union-made products. The attractiveness and appeal of the giant spectacle was enhanced by the wide open row of gaily decorated booths where people clustered to witness the actual operation of labor or manufacturing process. Band music and other entertainment contributed to the carnival spirit which prevailed.

In his opening address, Mr. Green hailed the Union Label Week theme as a tribute to the advantages of labor-management cooperation in our American way of life."

He said: "It is a fitting tribute to the skills and abilities of both labor and management that the products are capable of turning out the highest standards known in the world. He said:

"Such teamwork would be impossible under a Communist philosophy which denies the right to strike, and it is vital to the welfare of our own country and any other land which wants to be free. With labor-management teamwork, we can attain full employment, maximum production and widespread industrial peace. Surely, those goals are worth striving for."

"We in the American Federation of Labor are beneficiaries of free enterprise shall survive in America which has brought to the people of our country a higher standard of living than is enjoyed in any other nation on earth.

"But the free enterprise system is not a one-way street. Labor must be informed of its problems as well as industry, in order to make the system work effectively. The two are mutually interdependent. One cannot exist or make any progress without the other.

"Labor's willingness to give constructive cooperation to industries which are fair to its workers is perhaps most graphically illustrated by the union label. The union label on a product means that it is made in factories by union workers under decent union standards and under clean and healthful conditions. The same is true of the union shopcard and button with regard to service trades. The shop card and button before hiring anybody. In this way we provide concrete proof of our cooperation to cooperative employers."

Report Highlights Factors Leading to Industrial Peace

Princeton, N. J.—A recent report issued by Princeton University emphasizes the fact that industrial peace is not a matter of chance but actually attained whenever labor and management work jointly toward that end.

It is regrettable that newspapers, always anxious to give great publicity to the comparatively few examples of strife, between unions and employers, gave little or no mention of this significant publication.

"Constructive Experiences" is the document's title. It is based on a study of four large eastern plants with "model" union-management relations. Each plant is particularly illuminating. After over two decades of good relations between the Machinists and the company, a strike occurred in 1922, which was the most bitter experience in the plant's history. It got an antistrike injunction, hired an army of strikebreakers and established "open shop."

But the company lost money almost every year thereafter and went into receivership in 1933.

A year later, it signed with the Machinists again, and thereafter the company's business has been highly profitable. According to the report, the company is "convinced that collective bargaining is superior to an open shop policy for efficient, profitable and harmonious operation."

VETERANS' BONUS PAY BOOSTS CONSUMER INCOME

Washington. — Consumer incomes increased during March on an annual rate of $208,500,000,000, the Department of Commerce reported. The February rate was $207,700,000,000 and January's was $211,000,000,000.

The department said the cause of almost all the March increase was the "acceleration of veterans' bonus payments in the state of New York." New York veterans got about three-fourths of the $119,000,000 in state bonuses paid to veterans that month, it added. Consumer incomes include wages and salaries receipts, net income of unincorporated business owners, dividends, interest and rents received by landlords, relief and other payments to individuals.

VEHICLE SALES HIT NEW POSTWAR HIGH

Detroit.—Factory sales of motor vehicles hit a postwar high during March, totaling 692,615 units, the Automobile Manufacturers Association announced. The best previous month was December, 1947, when 669,967 vehicles were built.

Sales of motor trucks and buses from U. S. factories totaled 142,615 units in March, to achieve the highest monthly output for truck production in the history of the industry, the AMA said.

AFL's CANNERY WORKERS WIN BARGAINING ELECTION

San Francisco.—The AFL's Cannery Workers Union, affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, won a resounding victory here when employes of the new Campbell Soup Company plant voted 547 to 23 in favor of the union as their collective bargaining agent.

Following the election, union and company representatives began negotiations for a contract covering 850 full-time employes of the $20,000,000 plant. Seasonal workers will boost employment to nearly 3,500 at the height of the canning season.

SEAMEN RALLY WITH CASH TO HELP UNION

New York.—When it comes to protecting a union, seamen are willing to dig down into their jeans. That's what the AFofL Seafarers' Union, headed by Harry Lundeberg, reported.

By an overwhelming majority in a referendum, the union's members okayed a $10 special assessment for a "defense fund" which will be used to resist any moves by shipowners to wreck the Seafarers' basic safeguard—the union hiring hall.

AFL Executive Council Maps Other Economic, Social Plans

Milwaukee.— The American Federation of Labor will call upon both major political parties at their forthcoming national conventions to adopt platform planks urging the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.

This was announced by AFL President William Green at a press conference following the opening session of the spring meeting of the AFL Executive Council.

Mr. Green also revealed that the executive council will draft other platform planks on social and economic questions for submission to the Democratic and Republican national conventions.

Among labor's demands, it was indicated, will be action to curb inflation by a legislative program that will include improvements in the social security system, a long-range housing and construction bill and a higher minimum wage.

Mr. Green said that the AFL will formulate campaign policies here at the semi-annual meeting of the administrative committee of the Political Education League (Labor's League).

It is likely that the voting records of members of Congress up for reelection will be considered by the committee for the purpose of deciding whether they will be endorsed by the league or opposed.

The main test on endorsements, Mr. Green reemphasized, will be whether they filibuster voted against the Taft-Hartley Act.

He said the executive council will review labor's experiences under the new law at this meeting and issue its findings in a public statement.

The AFL chief also reiterated that the AFL is determined to maintain its nonpartisan political policy and refrain from endorsing any political party or party ticket as a whole. By means, he said, that no candidate for President is likely to receive the AFL's endorsement.

The executive council's first session was devoted largely to a review of the agenda and a discussion of the various proposals submitted for consideration by affiliated unions. Among these, Mr. Green said, was a recommendation for supporting legislation to create a Missouri Valley Authority, similar to the highly successful Tennessee Valley Authority. The executive council reserved decision on these matters until later in the meeting.

Mr. Green and the other members of the executive council will participate with labor in the Union-Industries Show at the Milwaukee Auditorium. This exposition, sponsored by the AFL's Union Label Trades Department, has attracted a great deal of popular interest in this city and the Milwaukee area, with visitors from all over the nation, including industrial and trade leaders. The Show will run for one week.

Carpenters' Group Denounces Sen. Ball

New York.—Charging Senator Joseph H. Ball of Minnesota with an "unprincipled attack on organized labor," Charles W. Hanson, president of the AFL Brotherhood, State Council of Carpenters and chairman of the Legislative Board of Carpenters Committee for Repeal and Defeat of Anti-Labor Laws, denounced plans in Congress for additional restrictions on labor.

Such plans, the union leader said, are only hatched in anti-labor quarters in the Senate. In evidence he pointed to an announcement by Senator Ball, chairman of the Joint Labor-Management Relations Committee, that the committee would soon begin hearings which will broaden the scope of the Taft-Hartley Act to strengthen its restrictive provisions.

In a telegram to Senator Ball, Mr. Hanson called new labor legislation "unnecessary and unwarranted." If the committee wanted information on the operations of anti-strike laws, it should ask organized labor, he said. He added that "labor cannot be observed by streaming details from the witnesses under the Taft-Hartley Act which strikes at the heart of American trade unionism are ignored."

The union spokesman praised on the other hand a bill introduced by Senator Irving M. Ives of New York seeking repeal of the union-shop election provisions in the Taft-Hartley Law. He invited the New York Senator to press for repeal of the entire "unworkable" law and "that the New York organized labor "expects you to exert your influence to bringing about long overdue changes."

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1948 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

Are You REGISTERED?

90,000 New Dwelling Units Begun In April; Construction Employment On Upswing

Washington.—Homebuilding activity soared to a high level in April when builders started 90,000 new permanent nonfarm dwelling units, according to preliminary estimates released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

At the same time the BLS reported increases in the value of all construction put in place in April and in employment levels in the construction industry.

The number of new houses started in April represented an increase of 29 percent over the March total and 34 percent above the housing starts recorded for April, 1947.

For the first 4 months of 1948 homebuilding showed an increase of 51,800 units, or 25 percent, over the same period a year ago. Through April, 257,000 houses were put under construction.

The BLS estimates revealed that the high level of housing construction prevailed in all regions of the country, particularly in the South Atlantic states and the mid-west.

BLS estimates for the value of total construction in April showed an increase of 9 percent over March with expenditures hitting the $1,269,000,000 mark. This is 37 percent over the valuation of new construction put in place in April of 1947.

Employment by construction contractors rose by 163,000 workers during April to 1,790,000, the highest level for any April since 1942. Compared with April, 1947, employment in the industry was higher by 171,000 (11 percent). Privately financed new construction claimed four out of every five workers employed by contractors in April, and about two workers in every three were engaged in new nonfarm housing.

The most important gains in private construction during April were in the field of new homebuilding and public utilities. The $500 million spent for housing was $25 million over March expenditures.

For the first 4 months of 1948, total expenditures for new construction amounted to $4.6 billion against $3.9 billion for the corresponding period of last year. Privately financed construction registered a 26 percent increase this year over last in the dollar volume of work put in place, resulting mostly from a $700 million, or 27 percent, rise in expenditures for new homes. Private work on new nonresidential buildings, at $1 billion, was 5 percent higher this year than last, but was down in spite of a substantial decline in construction of new factories.

Capacity Crowds Acclaim Union-Industries Show

Milwaukee.—Capacity crowds continued to throng the 1948 Union-Industries Show held here as the high point in the celebration of Union Label Week.

I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the AFL's Union Label Trades Department, which sponsored the exposition, declared that the enthusiastic response of visitors attending this show once again evidence that it was the biggest and best event ever staged by the department.

Since the opening ceremonies, when Mayor Frank P. Zeidler presented the keys of the city to AFL President William Green, I. M. Ornburn, and Frank R. Ramey of the Federated Trades Council of Milwaukee, motion picture cameras have clicked constantly recording the gigantic spectacle which symbolizes union-made products and union labor.

The floor of the auditorium, crowded by onlookers estimated to number in excess of 300,000 during the 5-day event, was dotted with over 250 exhibit booths containing gorgeously decorated displays of union-made goods and interesting demonstrations of union skills.

Live exhibits ranged from a complete pottery works in which union pottery workers actually made exquisite flowerware to a complete demonstration of how to build a home.

The electrical workers had an attractive display in which union neon signs and man-made lightning were manufactured before the eyes of the spectators.

The bakery workers had a popular exhibit where the onlookers could actually taste samples of their deliciously baked pastries.

In addition to the union-label exhibits, there were exhibits by union manufacturers and AFL unions. The audiences also enjoyed excellent vaudeville performances. Music by union bands and other entertainment features.

Extension of Reciprocal Trade Act Urged to Foster Healthy World Trade

Washington.—Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach urged the extension of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act which he termed "essential" to the broadening of a sound world trade program.

In a statement issued on the occasion of the observance of World Trade Week, recently proclaimed by President Truman, Secretary Schwellenbach stressed the state which labor has in the continuance of the trade agreements program. He said:

"High levels of world trade mean high standards of living. One of the important reasons for our own high living standard is the high level of trade that we maintain, without trade barriers, among our 48 states. Downward negotiation of worldwide trade barriers, on a studied and reciprocal basis, will encourage the healthy flow of trade on a worldwide basis. Extension of the General Agreement to other countries will give them a chance to bargain for a better deal at home these materials and products that can be produced more efficiently abroad, and will enable workers in foreign countries to increase their buying what we produce here in the United States."

The Geneva Agreement, mentioned by Mr. Schwellenbach, was signed by 22 nations and provides for the reduction of tariff rates and guarantees against their future increase. This agreement, the Secretary pointed out, contained no reductions on U. S. tariff rates which would be "disadvantageous to domestic industry or employment."

The Geneva Agreement and the charter for the International Trade Organization which was adopted recently at Havana, Cuba, comprise the foundations for a "healthy trading world and for rising world living standards," Mr. Schwellenbach said. In addition, he declared, the European Recovery Program was designed to help the nations of Europe over their present economic difficulties and "lay the kind of trading world that the ITO charter and the Geneva tariff agreement envisage."

Mr. Schwellenbach's statement declared:

"Immediately, the reductions made in tariff rates have been small. There is also a little to encourage the flow of trade, because of the low levels of production that exist in European industry and the currency situation which have made the European Recovery Program a worldwide economic necessity.

"Trade is a two-way affair; a nation cannot buy goods from the rest of the world unless it has money with which to buy; it cannot get this money if it has no goods to sell to the rest of the world. And unfortunately, despite the crying need for the American machinery that rolls off our production lines, the foreign exchange with which to buy machinery and other commodities that are harvested on our farms, the European nations are not now equipped to pay for what they need. Only if they in turn shall be able to buy from us on any stable basis will their productive mechanisms are strong and they can ship freely to our markets.

"The European Recovery Plan is designed to meet the needs of this immediate crisis. It is the first step by which the war-devastated countries of Europe can rebuild their economies. It is at this stage, when ERP is in its infancy, that the full benefits of the Geneva Agreement and the International Trade Organization, as they smooth the paths of expanding international shipments, will begin to be felt."

Council Refuses To Share Jobs On Hoffman's Staff With CIO

Joseph D. Keenan Appointed Director Of AFL's New Political Organization

Decision Based Upon CIO's Affiliation With WFTU

Milwaukee.—The AFL Executive Council refused to share administrative posts in the Economic Cooperation Administration with the CIO because the industrial Organizations, as long as the CIO remains affiliated with the Soviet-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions.

The council's decision followed a consultation with Paul G. Hoffman, ECA administrator, on labor's role in the implementation of the European Recovery Program.

AFL President William Green told newspaper reporters that AFL participation in the administration of ECA, along with the CIO, would be impossible. He explained that the CIO has maintained direct relations with the WFTU which has sought to sabotage the Marshall Plan. The AFL, he said, was one of the strongest supporters of the foreign recovery program and has steadfastly refused to join the Communist-inspired WFTU.

The labor fields the council drafted a series of recommendations for platform planks on labor and economic questions to be submitted by AFL President William Green to both the Republican and Democratic national conventions in Philadelphia.

Contents of the recommendations were not made public and will not be released until they are presented to the conventions.

The council also voted to extend an international union charter to the Brotherhood of Railroad Train Milters, which will become the 105th national or international union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

The new international union, with a membership of 20,000 workers employed in the nation's grain milling and processing plants, was formerly organized as a national council of several AFL federal labor unions chartered in the industry.

The American Federation of Grain Millers, headed by Sam Ming, president, has its headquarters in Minneapolis.

The three regular spring meeting of the AFL Executive Council held in Milwaukee rather than Washington in order that members could participate in the opening of the Union-Industries Show held here by the AFL's Union Label Trades Department. The council also set the national highlight for the observance of Union Label Week throughout the nation.

Washington.—Joseph D. Keenan was chosen director of Labor's League for Political Education, the political arm of the AFL, at a meeting of the league's Administrative Committee. The committee's action was unanimous.

Mr. Keenan, secretary on leave of the Chicago Federation of Labor, has been serving for the past two months as assistant to the executive officers of the league, who are William Green and George Meany, AFL secretary.

In a report to the Administrative Committee, Mr. Keenan said that state branches of the league have already been established in 42 states and that local affiliates in the federation are organizing politically in all but two states, Nevada and Wyoming.

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It was emphasized by several speakers that it is perfectly legal for unions, even under the Taft-Hartley Act, to spend union funds for the purpose of encouraging and persuading members to register and that they are now eligible to vote.

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He said that an AFL test case is still awaiting decision by a federal district court in Washington, while a CIO case is now before the Supreme Court on appeal.

Extension of Reciprocal Trade Act Urged to Foster Healthy World Trade

Washington.—Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach urged the extension of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act which he termed "essential" to the broadening of a sound world trade program.

In a statement issued on the occasion of the observance of World Trade Week, recently proclaimed by President Truman, the labor secretary stressed the state which labor has in the continuance of the trade agreements program. He said:

"High levels of world trade mean high standards of living. One of the important reasons for our own high living standard is the high level of trade that we maintain, without trade barriers, among our 48 states. Downward negotiation of worldwide trade barriers, on a studied and reciprocal basis, will encourage the healthy flow of trade on a worldwide basis. Extension of the General Agreement to other countries will give them a chance to bargain for a better deal at home these materials and products that can be produced more efficiently abroad, and will enable workers in foreign countries to increase their buying what we produce here in the United States."

The Geneva Agreement, mentioned by Mr. Schwellenbach, was signed by 22 nations and provides for the reduction of tariff rates and guarantees against their future increase. This agreement, the Secretary pointed out, contained no reductions on U. S. tariff rates which would be "disadvantageous to domestic industry or employment."

The Geneva Agreement and the charter for the International Trade Organization which was adopted recently at Havana, Cuba, comprise the foundations for a "healthy trading world and for rising world living standards," Mr. Schwellenbach said. In addition, he declared, the European Recovery Program was designed to help the nations of Europe over their present economic difficulties and "lay the kind of trading world that the ITO charter and the Geneva tariff agreement envisage."

Mr. Schwellenbach's statement declared:

"Immediately, the reductions made in tariff rates have been small. There is also a little to encourage the flow of trade, because of the low levels of production that exist in European industry and the currency situation which have made the European Recovery Program a worldwide economic necessity.

"Trade is a two-way affair; a nation cannot buy goods from the rest of the world unless it has money with which to buy; it cannot get this money if it has no goods to sell to the rest of the world. And unfortunately, despite the crying need for the American machinery that rolls off our production lines, the foreign exchange with which to buy machinery and other commodities that are harvested on our farms, the European nations are not now equipped to pay for what they need. Only if they in turn shall be able to buy from us on any stable basis will their productive mechanisms are strong and they can ship freely to our markets.

"The European Recovery Plan is designed to meet the needs of this immediate crisis. It is the first step by which the war-devastated countries of Europe can rebuild their economies. It is at this stage, when ERP is in its infancy, that the full benefits of the Geneva Agreement and the International Trade Organization, as they smooth the paths of expanding international shipments, will begin to be felt."

AFL Convention Calendar

Date 1948	Organization	Place
Sept. 7	Int. Bro. Boiler Makers, Iron Ship Builders & Helpers of America	Greater Kansas City
Sept. 9	Arizona State Federation of Labor	Phoenix
Sept. 9	Nevada State Federation of Labor	Reno
*Sept.	New Hampshire State Federation of Labor	Manchester
Sept. 9	Int. Bro. Electrical Workers	Memphis, Tenn.
Sept. 10	Int. Assn. Operative Plasterers of the U. S. and Canada	Montreal, Can.
Sept. 12	Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters	Detroit, Mich.
Sept. 13	Int. Assn. Special Delivery Messengers	Jacksonville, Fla.
Sept. 13	California State Federation of Labor	Long Beach
Sept. 13	Kentucky State Federation of Labor	Lexington
Sept. 13	Nebraska State Federation of Labor	Fremont
Sept. 13	Ohio State Federation of Labor	Akron
Sept. 13	Int. Union Journeymen Barbers, Hairdressers and Cosmetologists of America	Indianapolis
Sept. 13	Int. Bricklayers, Masons & Plasterers Union of America	San Francisco
Sept. 13	United Bro. Cement, Lime & Gypsum Wkrs.	Atlantic City
Sept. 13	International Chemical Workers	Long Beach, Calif.
Sept. 13	Distillery, Rectifying & Wine Wkrs.	Chicago
Sept. 13	Int. Association of Fire Fighters	Houston, Tex.
Sept. 17	Oklahoma State Federation of Labor	Muskogee
Sept. 18	American Wire Weavers Protective Assn.	New York City
Sept. 18	Int. Assn. Bridge & Structural Iron Wkrs.	Cleveland
Sept. 20	International Union Tobacco Workers	Philadelphia
Sept. 20	Minnesota State Federation of Labor	Duluth
Sept. 20	Cigarmakers' Int. Union of America	Philadelphia
Sept. 20	United Slate, Tile and Composition Damp and Waterproof Wkrs. Assn.	Minneapolis
Sept. 21	Connecticut State Federation of Labor	Undecided
Sept. 21	Indiana State Federation of Labor	Evansville
Sept. 21	Illinois State Federation of Labor	Chicago
Sept. 28	New Jersey State Federation of Labor	Atlantic City
Oct. 1	New Mexico State Federation of Labor	Santa Fe
Oct. 4	Delaware State Federation of Labor	Wilmington
Oct. 16	National Association of Letter Carriers	Miami, Fla.
Oct. 20	Air Line Pilots Association	Chicago
Oct. 28	International Brotherhood of Bookbinders	Cincinnati
*Nov.	Nat. Assn. Master Mechanics, Foremen of Navy Yards and Naval Stations	
Dec. 6	Int. Alliance of Bill Posters and Billers of America	Washington, D. C. Chicago

Fair Wage Clauses In Public Contracts Slated For Discussion At ILO Parley

Montreal.—Discussion of an international treaty establishing fair wage clauses in public contracts is on the agenda of the International Labor Organization's conference at San Francisco opening June 17.

Under ILO procedure, such a treaty could be drawn up before 1949, and then would be subject to ratification by the 55 member countries.

If adopted, it would require a clause in government contracts requiring contractors to pay not less than ruling rate of wages in their localities.

The International Labor Office at Montreal announced results of a questionnaire sent to member governments asking what practices are observed the fair wage treaty.

Most of those states which replied approved the idea of a treaty covering the basic principles, but that certain details to be covered in a supplementary recommendation.

A minority of the replies opposed a convention. Finland and Switzerland thought the subject could be covered by means of a formal recommendation. Sweden reported that practically the whole of its employment is covered by collective agreements and that the proposal was therefore of little interest.

A majority of the answers favored having the treaty binding on both contractors or assignees of contracts and on the workers employed.

A large number expressed a preference for a treaty which would stipulate that the "prevailing" rate of wages should be the minimum that public contracts should be required to pay. Where no such standard existing in a labor area, the rate established by those of Ireland and the United Kingdom appeared to be preferred. Also for the compulsory posting of notices informing workers of the provisions provided in the contracts.

All except Argentina and the United Kingdom wanted mandatory provisions withholding contracts from persons found guilty of repeated and serious violations of the fair wage clause.

We Want Your Vote Too!

How do you regard the Taft-Hartley Act?
Are you for it or against it?
Here's your chance to vote!

Recently, Senator Robert A. Taft and other supporters of this legislation have been making speeches trying to make the public believe that the Taft-Hartley Act is approved only by labor leaders and that the rank and file of labor union members are really in favor of it.

We think the public ought to know the truth.

That is why we are conducting this nation-wide poll.

This is an entirely secret ballot. We want you to express your honest opinion. Here's what you have to do. You have to do is to place a check in the box beside either of the two questions below and mail the clipping to Poll Department, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

I am for the Taft-Hartley Act ☐

I am against the Taft-Hartley Act ☐

Please mark your ballot above and mail to Poll Department, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Note to Editors.—Labor's own poll has been designed to find out whether there is any basis for the claim that union members are in favor of the Taft-Hartley law. Editors are requested to give wide publicity to the poll and urge their readers to participate in the balloting.

AFL UNION CHARTERS PUERTO RICO LOCAL

Philadelphia. — Chartering of the first local in Porto Rico, composed of island workers, by an AFL union was announced here by H. Ed Hoffman, president of the Upholsterers' International Union.

The members of the new UIU Local 425, manufacturing mops, will be employed at the San Juan plant of the Harris Company, world's largest manufacturer of mattresses and bedding. This is the sixth Simmons local organized by the UIU.

The UIU was hailed by Serafino Romualdi, secretary of International Relations of the newly formed Inter-American Confederation of Workers, as the first union to make use of the Latin American Department of the AFL to contact workers in Central and South America.

AVERAGE U. S. SALARY WAS $2,839 IN JULY

Washington.—The average annual salary in the government service was $2,839 last July, according to a Civil Service Commission.

The commission reported 80 percent of the federal jobholders make from $1,500 a year, 5 percent get less than $1,500 and the remaining 17 percent earn $2,500 or more.

It noted that the $2,839 average 1947-48 salary was an increase over the 1946 figure of $2,650.

If Congress approves one of the proposed pay raises the workers would get $468 more if paid by the year or 35 cents an hour more, if employed on that basis. The pending measure also would increase postal service wages $648 a year with its hourly workers getting 50 cents more.

MUSICIANS SETTLE WAGE RATES FOR TELEVISION

New York.—A 6-month interim agreement providing that musicians who play for television will get lower rates than for regular radio broadcasts was announced here by President James C. Petrillo of the American Federation of Musicians, AFL, and the four major networks.

The agreement went into effect May 1. Calling the wage situation "one of the most difficult I've ever faced," Petrillo said: "Our problem was to set a decent wage scale without hampering the progress of an infant industry that the public has long awaited . . .

"This agreement is going to help television more and more on, and shall have a better idea of where it is going. Then we can get together again, look at the facts and be guided accordingly. Meanwhile our musicians get paid, the public gets a break, and so does industry." Television wages are limited to two-thirds of the equivalent radio wages for local shows and three-quarters for network programs.

Joseph D. Keenan Appointed Director Of AFL's New Political Organization

Washington, D. C.—Joseph D. Keenan was chosen director of Labor's League for Political Education, the political arm of the AFL, at a meeting of the league's Administrative Committee. The committee's action was unanimous.

Mr. Keenan, secretary on leave of the Chicago Federation of Labor, has been serving for the past two months as assistant to the executive officers of the league, who are William Green and George Meany, AFL secretary.

In a report to the Administrative Committee, Mr. Keenan said that state branches of the league have already been established in 42 states and that local affiliates in the federation are organizing politically in all but two states, Nevada and Wyoming.

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He said that an AFL test case is still awaiting decision by a federal district court in Washington, while a CIO case is now before the Supreme Court on appeal.

AFL Council Urges Congress To Boost Federal Pay $800

Milwaukee.—Backing up its stand taken at previous meetings, the AFL Executive Council called for immediate action by Congress to authorize an $800 salary increase for U. S. postal workers and other federal employes.

A formal statement issued by the council at its spring meeting here took note of the fact that the cost of living has risen 30 percent since the last pay adjustment for federal workers and declared that "there is no justification" for granting a new pay boost.

The text of the council's statement follows:

"The Executive Council again calls upon Congress to vote immediate relief to postal workers and other government employes. Almost since the inception of the Eightieth Congress corrective legislation has been pending. We urge the prompt adoption of measures designed to increase federal employes an upward wage adjustment of not less than $800 per annum.

"There is absolutely no justification for further delays. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the cost of living has risen by more than approximately 30 percent since government workers were granted wage adjustments under the Lea and Welch laws. They and their families can no longer withstand hardship due to congressional negligence.

"Because of the increased cost of living generally prevailing, many of these workers are compelled to seek part-time jobs to supplement the entirely inadequate pay provided by the federal government. Such jobs tolerate conditions must not be indefinitely prolonged. Surely a great and prosperous government which has appropriated billions of dollar relief program for the people of other countries can well afford to pay its own employes a decent living wage.

"Government, in most instances, has always lagged in establishing equitable wage standards and maintaining them. This serious disparity between government standards and private industry standards has never been more glaring than now.

"Simple justice demands that these faithful government employes be accorded decent living standards by Congress.

"The Baldwin Bill, S. 1949, providing $800 annual pay increases for postal employes, and similar legislation covering other government employes, should be enacted promptly in original form, indicating retroactive provisions to January 1, 1948."

Apprenticeship Program Aids Defense By Developing Skills, Says Patterson

Boyes Hot Springs, Calif.—The security of the nation is being bolstered by the apprenticeship activities of labor and management engaged in developing the country's skilled man power for the future, Patterson, director of the Labor Department's Bureau of Apprenticeship declared.

These 36,000 men, Patterson explained, are members of 6,000 management-labor committees which have set up or are administering local joint apprenticeship programs. In addition in these, he said, there are many thousands who are learning their apprentices under individual programs.

"Next to an adequate military force in being, the best defense is a broad off any idea of attack from other nations better than a strong corps of full-fledged mechanics. The creation and supply of our military forces are dependent upon the mechanics, tool makers and the other skilled workers," Patterson declared.

"All apprenticeship functionaries—labor, management and government—have a common blueprint now what can be done to keep gear our skilled work force at complete mobilization should that become necessary.

"This involves early determination of which trades would be drawn upon most heavily and shifting our apprenticeship activities accordingly. From our experience in the last war we know those who will be needed are those of the aircraft manufacturing, shipbuilding and foundry industries and tool making, die making, die sinking, machine building and automotive maintenance," Patterson said.

U. S. POPULATION INCREASES RECORD 2% IN FISCAL YEAR

Chicago.—The United States' population increased at an estimated rate of 2 percent in the fiscal year 1947, the highest rate in 20 years, according to Leon E. Truesdell, chief of the population division of the Bureau of the Census.

Mr. Truesdell, summarizing data for the Encyclopedia Britannica Book of the Year, said that births totaled about 4,000,000, as compared with a little more than 2,000,000 in 1942, the previous record year for births.

AFL's RETAIL CLERKS WIN BARGAINING RIGHTS

Boston.—Michael J. Walsh, AFL New England regional director, reported another in a series of AFL victories in collective bargaining elections conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

Employes of Gilchrist's, a large department store here, voted by nearly 3 to 1 to be represented by the AFL's Retail Clerks' International Association in collective bargaining negotiations with the store.

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7,211 WORKERS TRAIN FOR BUILDING TRADES

New York.—The number of building trades apprentices here is greater than at any other time in the 40-year history of the AFL's Building and Construction Trades Department, according to Howard McSpedon, council president.

Mr. McSpedon announced that 7,211 apprentices were at work on March 31 in the building trades compared with 4,003 in September, 1946, the national highlight for the observance of Union Label Week throughout the nation.

MARCH WEEKLY EARNINGS BELOW DECEMBER HIGH

Washington.—M l-4 M a r c h, 1948, weekly earnings for production workers in manufacturing factories increased slightly to $52.39 from $52.17 in February but fell short of the $52.72, according to figures released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Both average weekly hours and gross weekly earnings returned to the record levels, however, for the month. Average hourly earnings for all manufacturing industries showed a decrease, reaching a new peak of $1.293 in March.

The mid-March workweek for the durable goods industries increased to the average of 41.0 hours reported at the beginning of this year. Gross weekly earnings changed similarly.

Automobile, lumber and transportation equipment establishments were among those reporting an increase in weekly hours and weekly earnings.

Gross average hourly earnings for plants producing nondurable goods have increased more than 7 cents since December, 1947, in response to a number of recent wage rate advances.